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Growing Up Poor in Massachusetts

Children and the Poverty Gap

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Statewide Advisory Council
Office for Children
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Growing Up Poor in Massachusetts Children and the Poverty Gap

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Introduction

Marjorie Claprood
State Representative
(D-Sharon)

"The fundamental issue in the 'Up to Poverty' campaign centers on our commitment to the principle of equal opportunity in our society. Massachusetts may be rightly called a state of opportunity, but there is nothing equal about it.

For the tens of thousands of children whose families live 40 percent below the poverty limit, the obstacles are formidable. Living in sub-optimal housing (when it's

*Massachusetts may rightly be called a state
of opportunity, but there is nothing equal
about it.*

available), eating on inadequate food stamps (when people know they are available) and enduring daily assaults on one's dignity and self-esteem make the chance of surviving, much less thriving, minimal at best.

Faced with the reality of socio-economic discrimination, the full potentiality of each child is deeply threatened, and with it the full potentiality of our next generation.

No informed public official can any longer deny the causal relationship between poverty and societal problems such as teenage pregnancy, unemployment, poor health and nutrition, and the tragic manifestation of low self-esteem evidenced by alcoholism, drug abuse and domestic violence.

For those for whom the argument of compassion and equal opportunity fail, the pragmatism of sound investment policy must prevail. The return on this investment can be very high. If it is good government to invest in the protection of our environment and other natural resources and in the preservation of our infrastructure, surely it makes sense to invest in our most valuable resource—our children and theirs to follow.

To ensure equal opportunity for our children we must commit ourselves to raise the standard of living for those on welfare to at least the federal poverty level."

Left Behind by the "Massachusetts Success Story"

The year was 1985.

The last year Massachusetts officials permitted welfare recipients to live above the poverty line. Not in splendor. At a purchasing power defined by the federal government in the mid-1950s as three times the cost of inexpensive but nutritionally sound meals. A national average that doesn't take into account the high costs of food and shelter in Massachusetts.

It's been down hill ever since. Women and children, the vast majority of people who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits—the people who depend upon the state for their survival—slid further and further into poverty.

They lived on an income that kept them above the poverty level in 1970. They fell six percent behind by 1975. Thirty-two percent behind by 1980. Forty-three percent behind by 1985. And they are still 40 percent behind despite the highest-ever cost of living adjustment (COLA) allocated last year.

State and federal policy at work.

The buildup of the poverty gap.

Massachusetts children growing up in poverty.

This is an account of a neglected people. Children and families neglected until last year when the "Up to Poverty" campaign brought the issue of wealth and poverty to the public's attention. To the forefront of State House decision making.

The wealth of a Commonwealth that is the envy of the nation. The poverty of those left behind by the "Massachusetts Success Story." By President Ronald Reagan's "economic miracle."

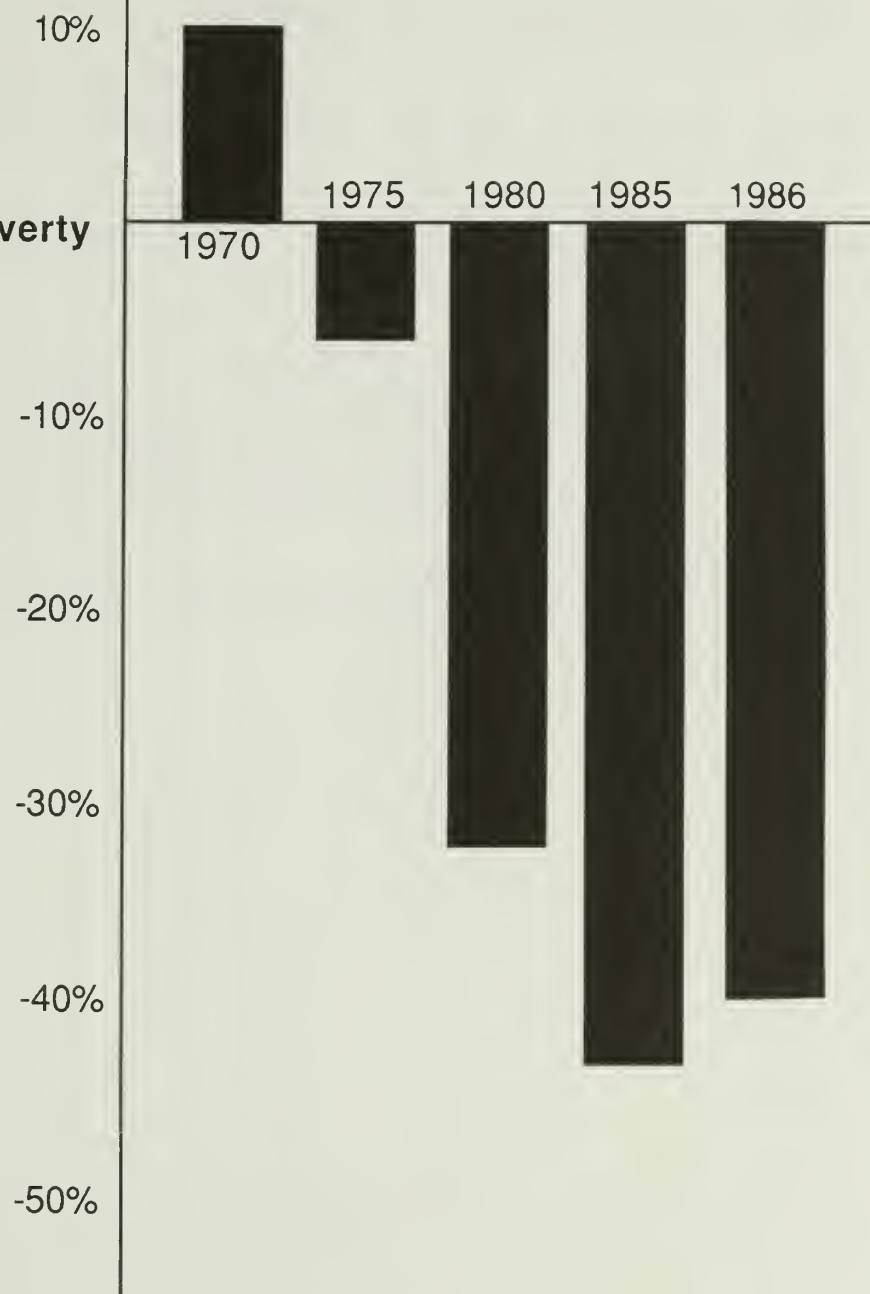
An account of children and parents traumatized by divorce, domestic violence, desertion and constant relocations. Families with small children. Or those with special social service needs.

People ignored by the inflation of the 1970s and again during the recovery of the mid-80s.

The year is 1986. The year to close the poverty gap.

*The Poverty
Gap:
AFDC benefits
vs.
the poverty level*

Poverty



The Rationales of Neglect

This is a menu for what the Boston Globe once called the "self-serving, but generally reasonable" explanations for neglect. The "soothing, lulling" responses of state officials to the needs of children.

"Too big a deficit inherited from the Frank Sargent years (1975)" . . . "The recession increased our caseload too much, 12,000 new families in one year alone (1975)" . . . "We're cutting back and raising taxes; it's not the time to give big cost of living adjustments (1975-76)" . . . "The public doesn't have confidence in our welfare department (1975-84)" . . . "When you increase the COLA, you increase the number of people eligible for welfare (1975-85)" . . . "Inflation skyrocketed, we'll bust our budget (1979-81)" . . . "Workfare is the answer, not COLAs (1977-84)" . . . "We've got to bail out the cities and towns after Proposition 2½ instead (1981-85)" . . . "It's time to spread the wealth to taxpayers, too, by repealing the state income surcharge (1985)."

And so it went, one rationale after another. Until 1985 when 252,000 women and children on AFDC were forced to live on family incomes far below the poverty standard.

*Inflation
and the
Poverty Gap*

Fiscal year	COLA (in percent)	Inflation rate ¹ (in percent)
1970	3.4	6.1
1971	14.0 ²	5.1
1972	0	3.6
1973	3.8	6.0
1974	0	10.4
1975	4.0	9.0
1976	0	7.6
1977	5.0	5.1
1978	3.0	5.3
1979	0	10.3
1980	6.0	12.7
1981	6.0 ³	11.1
1981	0	4.1
1983	0	4.4
1984	0	4.9
1985	4.0	4.5
1986	9.0	5.7 ⁴

¹Federal Consumer Price Index increases for Boston

²Unusually high figure due to one-time consolidation of welfare grant

³Since 1981 the state has offered a clothing allowance in lieu of or in addition to the basic AFDC grant

⁴January only

The Inflation Few Considered

In seven of the last 17 years (including the current fiscal year), no cost of living increase was granted to the AFDC program.

In five of these years the increase was 4 percent or less.

On only five occasions did the annual AFDC grant increase by 5 or more percent.

In only three of the last 16 years did cost of living increases exceed the previous year's inflation.

Between 1970 and 1986, the Consumer Price Index for Boston went up 116 percent, while AFDC cost of living increases amounted to only 58 percent—a 58 percent difference!

The numbers tell a story.

The numbers of political indifference concerning the most vulnerable people in our state.

Of how, in the early 1970s, everybody concerned, from welfare advocates to state officials, failed to consider the ravages of inflation.

The numbers of the poverty gap. A gap of a child's hunger and homelessness and of her mother's inability to feed, clothe and otherwise provide for herself and for her children.

A massive disinclination to respond to inflation. And to calls for increased support from groups such as the Human Services Coalition and others from the late-1970s on.

Massive support must now be the priority.

Deborah Weinstein
Director
Massachusetts
Human Services
Coalition

“The poverty gap campaign did not spring full-blown to life in 1985. It has its roots in a continuing effort to increase grant levels each year since the mid-1970s. At one time, advocacy group efforts led to passage of a law which would require annual cost of living adjustments to match changes in the Consumer Price Increase.

But the addition of three magic words—Subject to Appropriation—were added by the legislature and they chose not to appropriate the funds.

In the past ten years, advocates and recipients have operated in what has been, at times, a very inhospitable climate for significant change. Threatened and real cutbacks diverted attention from the COLA issue. In such a climate, the best that

The partial success to date in raising grant levels, and the hopes for the future, have been enhanced by the Commonwealth's economic growth.

could be attained were small victories such as clothing allowance, emergency assistance and insufficient COLA benefits.

By the mid-1980s, after a decade of incremental improvements, advocates and recipients decided to educate the public and the legislature about the scope of AFDC need: their purchasing power declined by one-half since 1970.

There is no doubt that the partial success to date in raising grant levels, and the hopes for the future, have been enhanced by the Commonwealth's economic growth. When it is clear that substantial increases are within the means of the state, the message of the poverty gap will become more compelling.”

A Portrait of Those in Need: Realities of Welfare

Of the 252,000 people who receive AFDC benefits, 168,000, or 66 percent, are children. Of them, 84,000 are six years old or younger. The average age of an AFDC child is 7½.

An additional 29,000 people qualify for the state-funded General Relief program for those not eligible for AFDC.

Of those on General Relief, 13,900 are disabled, 4,200 are not employable, 3,000 are children, 1,300 are rehabilitation clients, 1,100 reside in halfway houses and the rest are enrolled for other reasons.

A few other facts about welfare. Nine out of 10 recipients speak English.

Sixty-four percent are White, 18 percent are Black and 17 percent are Hispanic.

The average length of stay on welfare is two years.

More than half the mothers on welfare have never married.

The typical welfare family is a mother with two children.

About one-half of the adults completed high school.

Ninety-two percent of AFDC families require some assistance because absent fathers do not provide adequate child support.

*Massachusetts
Children
Living in
Poverty*

It's tempting to ignore the plight of Massachusetts women and children living in poverty.

Newspaper stories about with stories of success. Of new businesses and jobs. Of Lowell's revitalization. The recovery of Taunton. Of plans for Athol and Orange. And the Berkshires, too.

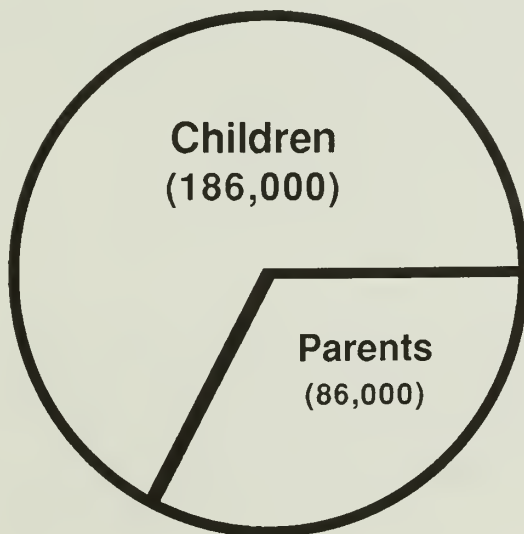
But beneath the veil of self-congratulation is another reality. Increasing numbers of women and children living in poverty. The great contradiction of the "Massachusetts Success Story."

In 1982 the Massachusetts Advocacy Center revealed the extent of the exploding numbers of women and children in poverty. The number of female-headed, single-parent families with children under 18 living beneath the poverty level increased 87 percent in a decade.

Of 1,490,389 Massachusetts children under 18, more than one out of every seven (202,474) were living below poverty, an increase of 52 percent since 1970.

And the trend continues. The trend that can be reversed.

*AFDC Benefits
Massachusetts
Children*



They're Only Children Once

Four. Five. Six years old. Trauma in the family associated with frequent relocations. Packing and moving in the middle of the school year. In with an aunt and her kids. Out to a shelter with strangers. No place to play. Lots of noise. No privacy.

On to an apartment your mother really can't afford, even with AFDC and a rent supplement voucher. One less meal a day. No friends. No trust. No idea where you'll be next year, next month.

You come down with the flu, and your mother can't afford cough syrup. And Medicaid or Food Stamps won't pay for it, either.

Empty bellies, and few urban school systems to provide a hot breakfast.

No treats. None of the extras that make for a full childhood. No "Transformers." No "She-Ra, Princess of Power" dolls. None of the staples of the modern consumer society that every kid wants and needs.

High numbers of depressed and disorganized children who show their distress in a variety of ways—withdrawn or hyperactive, the two ends of the behavioral spectrum. The inability to grow up like other kids.

And never a break. No vacations. No movies. No videos. Nothing but the paralysis of poverty.

And the stimulation of insecurity.

Life at the poverty line is no fun, either. But the pressure will be relieved when the gap is closed. When the AFDC grant reflects the needs of people with nowhere else to turn than the state.

Richard A. Kraus
State Senator
(D-Arlington)

"Many of our citizens have had the fortune to be swept along in the wake of our state's burgeoning economy. Unfortunately, certain groups are consistently left behind even in the best of times. Specifically, I refer to the ever-increasing numbers of low-income, single-parent households and their children.

It is the children of these families who suffer most from the inability of their parent to break out of the poverty cycle. With impending federal budget cuts, we have a responsibility to give these children a chance.

As public officials, we need to provide an adequate welfare grant, concentrate on more and better early education programs for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, provide more public school subsidized school breakfasts and further

It is the children of these families who suffer most from the inability of their parent to break out of the poverty cycle.

state supplementation of the "Women, Children and Infant" (WIC) nutrition program. Also, we must increase funds for state supplemented day care so that parents can pursue employment opportunities.

Without a doubt, it will be the children of today who hold the keys to our tomorrow, and it is for this reason that we need to do all we can for this special group of citizens."

Not Enough of Anything: The Family Welfare Budget

We'll call her Helen Carson (a fictitious name for a typical welfare household head).

A 32 year old mother, a single parent with two children aged three and six. Her husband left eighteen months ago. No word for seven months. And not a dime in child support payments.

Forced to rely on the AFDC program as a means of survival, Helen receives a basic monthly grant of \$432, plus a \$21 clothing stipend for her children.

Yet she must spend \$290 on rent, \$153 on utilities, and \$250 for food each month.

What about clothes for herself? Quarters for the laundromat? Diapers and a stroller for her three year old? Personal hygiene items? The television that needs repair? Basic monthly service for her telephone? Tokens for the MBTA?

The numbers tell a story. The reality is more harsh.

*Coalition for
Basic
Human Needs
Statement*

"There are far too many children living on welfare in the state of Massachusetts, and they comprise far too large a percentage of the welfare caseload. These children live on incomes that are more than 40 percent below the official poverty level.

A mother and two children on AFDC receive \$432 per month in cash benefits. The federal poverty line is \$760 per month for a family of three.

*Children live at a little over half of what the
federal government has determined to be the
minimum for survival.*

This means that children live at a little over half (57 percent) of what the federal government has determined to be the minimum for survival.

The Coalition for Basic Human Needs, in conjunction with feminist and advocacy groups from around the state, has mounted a campaign to pass a bill to close the poverty gap.

'This bill is important because children are our most important resource,' says Dottie Stevens, a CBHN Board Member and a welfare mother. 'They are our children, and we might as well pay now than later for other, more serious, social costs,' says Stevens."

Mothers and Children: The New Children

Helen Carson is lucky, if you can call going into debt lucky. She has a place to call home. For a growing number of families this is not the case.

Women and children with no place to go. The new homeless.

A study of Boston families residing in homeless and battered women's shelters paints a disturbing portrait.

Eighty-two percent doubled or tripled up with relatives or friends prior to entering their shelter.

Half came from welfare motels.

One-third had another shelter as a previous address.

The typical family moved four times in the last year. Seven times in the last five.

And of greatest surprise, one-third of the families interviewed were chronically homeless. A fire didn't leave them without a roof over their heads. Public policy did.

The new homeless. Families who can't afford a place to stay. Even with their welfare grants.

WBZ-TV 4
Editorial
"Up to Poverty—
NOW"
March 6-7, 1986

"The state's AFDC benefits—which are 41 percent below the poverty level—simply aren't enough to prevent homelessness. That's why in Fiscal Year 1985, some 4654 AFDC families were homeless and needed emergency shelter. The Department

A shelter is no place to raise children.

of Public Welfare pays \$30 a night to shelter (a) family. That's penny wise and pound foolish. Why not raise the AFDC grant to the poverty level at least? This would give families a chance to make ends meet.

This year's state budget calls for a 10 percent increase in AFDC benefits. At that rate, it would take 8 years to bring families up to poverty. That's too long. AFDC's increase should be at least 25 percent. Now, the state's economy is in good shape. We can afford it. Let's do it. A shelter is no place to raise children."

A Crisis Made Worse by Affluence

"Rising Prices Make Prospects Bleak For Renters and First-Time Buyers"

Banker and Tradesman, February, 1985

"Hub area's housing prices soar"

Boston Globe, August, 1985

"Affordable housing crisis grows as land prices soar"

Boston Globe, September, 1985

"Soaring Price of Boston Homes Laid to Strong Local Economy"

New York Times, September, 1985

It's not a "strong" local economy. It "sizzles." So said Patricia McGovern, the chairwoman of the Senate Ways and Means committee.

And with a healthy economy comes a demand for housing.

The strongest real estate market in the country. Residential values up 38 percent last year alone.

Apartment rentals trending up the same way.

The by-product: Welfare recipients can't afford to pay the rent. Or they must spend far too much of their AFDC grants on housing. Up to 90 percent, in some instances. Helen Carson, from the example above, pays 67 percent. And she is merely typical of the average welfare case.

When the federal poverty level was established, only 25-30 percent of the welfare grant went for shelter. A bygone day. A bygone rent.

The Boston Globe
"Spreading the
Prosperity"
March 8, 1986

*Some families will always be forced to seek
welfare assistance.*

"Whatever success the Dukakis administration may be having in its nationally touted ET program, which provides training and support so that welfare recipients can obtain permanent employment and go off the welfare rolls, some families will always be forced to seek welfare assistance.

Social justice demands that these families should be allowed to live at least at the poverty level. There is no better time to bring that about than when the state as a whole is healthy and prosperous."

The Roots of the AFDC Housing Crisis

In 1979, the federal government added 15,300 subsidized units to the state's low income housing stock. By 1985, the number of new units fell off to 4,800.

The feds are now totally out of Section 8 new construction and rehabilitation.

And they're totally out of traditional public housing construction.

The number of potential public housing units already built is dwindling. Due to renovations, a maximum of 1,500 low income units at Boston's Columbia Point project will be reduced to 400. And the already completed Fidelis Way project in the Brighton neighborhood of Boston lost 192 units from its base of 600.

Condominium conversions ate up more than their fair share of reasonably priced housing. Between 1980-84 there were 12,462 conversions. And 75 percent of the buyers were investors who never planned to occupy their new holdings. Conversions for speculators. Poor and low-to-moderate income people need not apply.

Lodging house units, too, long a source of affordable housing, were converted to so-called "higher economic usage." Six thousand, five hundred units disappeared between 1968 and 1985.

Then there are the dual plagues of arson and abandonment. The Massachusetts Housing Partnership puts the number of vacancies at 4,000 dwellings.

And now, demand for existing housing far outstrips supply. The healthy economy. Newly created jobs. Older neighborhoods and whole towns revitalized. Rental units going off-market and the prices of those remaining going up. Way up. Out of reach.

The so-called "Hot Spots" for real estate investment that "Boston Magazine" referred to in a recent cover story on million dollar condos. Hot spots that once were called home for people of low and moderate income.

Judy Meredith
Lobbyist
Meredith &
Associates

"The tremendous escalation of rents and home prices means that too large a portion of family income must now go to pay for shelter costs and much less is left over for other basic needs.

Some figures on the housing crisis in Massachusetts: Median rents in the Boston area are up to \$528;

- The median selling price for a home is now \$144,800;
- Between 1980-85 housing production was 72,000 units behind what the state declared necessary;
- Waiting lists for public housing and rent subsidy certificates continue to escalate—Boston 18,042, Chelsea 1,527, Everett 1,306, Salem 2,230 to cite a few examples;

The AFDC and General Relief grant levels must be increased so that people in need of housing can find it, and people living on fixed incomes can afford it.

- Only one out of five households eligible for housing subsidies receive them.

Although Massachusetts has funded more housing programs than most states, the housing crisis is so great here that much more must be done at the state level. The Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance is working to build support for legislation to greatly increase the development of reasonably-priced housing.

But until that day when affordable housing is made available, the AFDC and General Relief grant levels must be increased so that people in need of housing can find it, and people living on fixed incomes can afford it."

Findings About Our Housing Market

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, 63 percent of all AFDC recipients spend more than 75 percent of their grants on shelter and utilities.

If, that is, they are lucky enough to find housing.

Rents are rising at an annual rate of 30-46 percent statewide depending on apartment size.

But the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, through its Section 8 subsidized housing program, only recognizes rent increases of between 2.2 and 6.7 percent.

In May of 1985, the Boston Housing Authority determined that only 54 percent of Section 8 certificate holders could find places to live.

Between 1982 and 1984, the percentage of housing units renting for less than \$300 declined from 13 percent to two percent.

The high cost of low and moderate income housing contributes to making AFDC grants unlivable.

A Solution to the AFDC Housing Crisis

There is none. Not from the development perspective.

Not with the federal government getting out of the housing business.

Not when the state has at best a limited capacity to encourage or build affordable housing.

"Too little, too late" said Amy Anthony, the state's top housing official of the recent mini-burst of apartment construction.

The only solution to the AFDC housing crisis is to allocate an adequate grant to welfare recipients. So that they can afford their shelter and utility costs. With a little left over for a bottle of aspirin. A Children's Museum ticket. A new skirt and blouse for a mother scheduled for a job interview.

It's time to stop blaming the federal government and start fixing the AFDC housing crisis. By closing the AFDC poverty gap.

*The AFDC
Rent Gap
1970-1985*

Rent
329% more



AFDC Grant
50% more



An "Embarrassing" Command of Resources

In the present wealth and economic health of our Commonwealth that enables state officials to promote the "Massachusetts Success Story" lies the solution to the poverty gap. The money is there.

Last year, state revenues were sufficient to grant the largest-ever state tax reduction.

This year, tax collections are rolling in at an "embarrassing high rate." Those were the words of Frank Keefe, the state's chief fiscal officer. Keefe now projects a \$509 million state surplus for this year, far greater than his earlier \$217 million estimate.

So rosy is our fiscal health that Governor Michael Dukakis chose as his motto for the state the phrase "Opportunity for All." The title of his 1985 State of the State address. The subject of many of his 1985 speeches.

The theme and title of his current state budget request.

But the goal that all our citizens benefit from and participate in the Massachusetts recovery will not be realized until the AFDC poverty gap is eliminated. Never to re-emerge.

Richard R. Rowe
Chairman and
President
State Advisory
Council
Office for Children

"Poverty has a devastating effect on the lives of children.

A few statistics and disturbing observations: Fourteen percent of Massachusetts children live in poverty, twice the rate of the general population.

Poor kids are not healthy. Babies born to poor mothers have a higher mortality rate and lower average birth weight. Older, poor children are more malnourished, as well.

Poor kids have more handicaps. Twenty-five percent of all children born with developmental disabilities are from poor families.

Poor kids get into trouble. More than one-half of all youths committed to the Department of Youth Services are from families that earn less than \$10,000 per year.

Poor kids have less of a chance to obtain a good education. School districts with lower-than-average incomes spend less per pupil on education, and their students receive lower scores on basic skills tests.

Children who have children often find their families trapped in the cycle of poverty.

Poor kids are more often unemployed. Poor youths are only two-thirds as likely to have a job as those from middle- and upper-income families.

Poor kids have a higher birthrate. The rate for adolescent mothers is two-to-four times greater than for all other age groups in the major low-income urban areas.

Children who have children often find their families trapped in the cycle of poverty. We must break that cycle.

As a start, benefit levels for AFDC and General Relief recipients must, at the very least, be brought up to the federal poverty level."

Up to Poverty

A war in Vietnam.

New constituencies that garnered support.

An uncongenial political climate.

For these reasons and more, the welfare rights movement lost much of the steam and political influence it exerted so effectively throughout the 1960s.

But the despair of welfare recipients turned to hope as the 1970s came to a close. When the Coalition for Basic Human Needs and Women for Economic Justice and other organizations formed and then joined with older groups to advance the rights of those on welfare.

Once again issues of welfare and poverty made it to the forefront of the state's public policy agenda. In 1985, the "Up to Poverty" Campaign was launched.

The Campaign to close the AFDC poverty gap.

After one year, the Campaign claimed some impressive achievements. Strong statewide grassroots support for the first time in a decade. Favorable editorials from major news organizations. A nine percent AFDC cost of living increase in 1985, more than double the four percent increase of the previous year, but short of the group's stated 25 percent minimum goal.

In 1986, the Campaign intensifies.

Jean Entine
Women for
Economic Justice

"In the Spring of 1984, a coalition was formed to address economic and political inequities confronting low income women and women of color.

Under the aegis of Women for Economic Justice, the "Up to Poverty" campaign has united over 50 unions, women's, church, community-based and low-income organizations, and others representing people of color in a campaign to raise welfare benefits up to the federal poverty level and beyond.

Now in its second year, the campaign has launched an ambitious effort to conduct hearings in a number of state senatorial districts to enable constituents to meet their legislators and express their support for the campaign.

The "Up to Poverty" campaign has united over 50 unions, women's, church, community-based and low-income organizations.

The nine percent AFDC benefit increase won last year was the largest in state history. Building upon that success, the "Up to Poverty" campaign for 1986 seeks a minimum 25 percent increase this year and for every year after until grants, at the very least, match the federal poverty level."

What About Food Stamps and Housing Grants?

Yes, the size of the poverty gap would be smaller if other benefits beside the basic grant were figured in. But not all AFDC recipients receive the extras.

Only 75 percent of welfare recipients participate in the food stamp program. And don't forget that when AFDC grants go up, the amount of food stamps goes down. That's a federal rule.

Only 25 percent of recipients live in public housing. And of those recipients who receive rent subsidies, only about fifty percent find low-priced housing in the state's skyrocketing rental housing market.

According to the state welfare department, in 1985 only 20 families per month moved into public housing in Boston where the housing shortage is most acute.

What About "ET," The Training Program?

The Commonwealth's Employment and Training Choices program, better known as "ET," receives lots of attention these days. So much so that people may think it's the answer to the "welfare problem." It's not.

Not every AFDC recipient can participate. Not women who recently have been abused or deserted by their husbands or partners. Not women who have very young children. Or children with developmental problems requiring special attention.

And not women with large families who can't earn enough on an after-tax basis from low-paying ET jobs to justify leaving welfare and placing themselves and their children at further economic risk. Benefits rise with family size. Salaries don't.

The Proposal: 25 Percent

The issue is clear. The need is great. The money exists. And the sentiment is strong to close the AFDC poverty gap.

Twenty-five percent more in AFDC benefits this year.

Twenty-five percent more each subsequent year until we are back where we were in 1975. When every AFDC recipient lived above the poverty line. Not below it.

And then every year thereafter the AFDC grant must be pegged to increases in the cost-of-living. So that the poverty gap never reappears.

That's the goal.

The year is 1986. The year to close the poverty gap for Massachusetts children and their families.

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Office for Children
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Sheldon White
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*Organizations
Supporting the
"Up to Poverty"
Campaign**

American Friends Service Committee
Boston Children's Service Association
Boston NOW
Boston Women's Health Book Collective
Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women
Cambridge YWCA
CPPAX
Democratic Socialists of America
Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses
Gay Community News
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Massachusetts Human Services Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Massachusetts Statewide Advisory Council, Office for Children
Massachusetts Tenants Organization
Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus
METCO
National Association of Social Workers, Massachusetts Chapter
New England Women's Studies Association
Poor People's United Fund
Rainbow Coalition
Service Employees International Union, Local 285
Women of Color United
Women's Theological Center

** Partial list*





